

AN IMPROVED SIDE AIRBAG

Abstract

An improved side airbag (10) is provided for enhancing protection of a vehicle occupant's thorax and simultaneously displacing the vehicle occupant (14) away from door intrusion. This improved side airbag (12) is an inflatable bag having a thorax-cushioning portion (16) and a pelvis-pushing portion (18) adjacent to the thorax-cushioning portion (16). The thorax-cushioning portion (16) has a first predetermined stiffness for cushioning a thorax region of the vehicle occupant (14) while the pelvis-pushing portion (18) has a second predetermined stiffness for displacing the vehicle occupant (14) away from the door intrusion. The second predetermined stiffness of the pelvis-pushing portion (18) is greater than the first predetermined stiffness of thorax-cushioning portion (16).